

Published monthly by the Kilgore News Herald

# Chamber connection



**KILGORE**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

APRIL 2023 • www.kilgorechamber.com • 1108 N. Kilgore Street • 903-984-5022



**Jill R. McCartney White,**  
IOM, CCEO-AP  
President & CEO

There's a saying in chamber circles that a chamber membership is like a gym membership. You get out what you put in. You can't join a gym, never go, and expect to have abs like Ryan Gosling. But is a chamber membership really like going to the gym? That depends on whether you like going to the gym or not.

### GETTING OUT WHAT YOU PUT INTO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

First, even if you never go to a single chamber event, unlike a gym membership, you will get value from joining. By investing in your chamber, you're helping pro-business legislation get passed, improving business advocacy for your area, and investing in your



business community. But while you're undoubtedly a distinguished member of this community, there's more to a chamber membership than these levels of advocacy. Because let's face it, if you're trying to pay bills every month, advocacy is not something that's first and foremost on your mind. So, let's talk about the other things you get from a chamber membership.

### CONNECTIONS

Okay, for this part you will have to do the work. Whether you attend chamber events or simply advertise in the directory, it's difficult to use the chamber to build relationships and increase sales if you're not present in some way. The chamber has dozens of ways to get involved. Just like with exercise, you can find the one that best suits you and that you'll enjoy. We have 2 FREE networking events each month, Morning Brew held

the 3rd Thursday morning from 8-9 am at a member business (check our Facebook events for locations), and the Growth Group, held every last Monday of the month from 11:30 - 1:00 pm at The Back Porch.

### A PLATFORM

Your Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce has a formidable reputation in our community. Through your membership/investment, their plat-

form is extended to you. You may have options for presenting your knowledge at a BizConnect Luncheon, writing an informative article for their blog or website, or mentoring another community member. We will share their platform because they want to see your business succeed.

### LEARNING

On a regular basis, we are gleaned information on the latest trends and ideas in

business marketing to keep up with the best ways to market, the newest social media techniques, and ways to use digital marketing to improve your brand recognition. We have created programs like the BOSS (Business Owners Sharing Solutions) program to assist our small businesses to lean on each other and learn ways to grow as a community.

### A FINAL TAKEAWAY ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP

No, chamber membership is not exactly like a gym membership because with chamber membership, it's not all or nothing. It's not a decision between the couch or working out. You can never attend an event and still get value from the membership. You can gain a little exposure or a lot. There's no one-size-fits-all experience. But if you do participate, your membership will be a much more inspiring and lucrative experience. So if you are not a member, give me a call and we can talk about how involved you would like your business and/or staff to be.

*Jill R. McCartney White, IOM  
Kilgore Area Chamber of  
Commerce  
President & CEO*



**KILGORE**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## 2023 New Members

Thank you for your investment!

- Oil Masters of Kilgore, Inc.
- Power House Coatings & Fabrications
- East Texas CASA
- Woolley Tool, Inc.
- Consolidated Communications
- Meadowbrook Preschool
- Law Office of Tom B. Watson, PLLC
- An Elegant Touch Floral & Design
- Watson Report Service
- Alinea Family Hospice Care

Let's put your company name HERE!

## MORNING BREW

POWERED BY  
KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**TEXAS**  
Shakespeare Festival

Thursday  
April 20, 2023  
8:00 - 9:00 am  
815 Houston Street  
Kilgore, Texas

Come Grow with us!

## MEMBER INVESTOR RENEWALS

- |                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Arpco Valves & Controls, LLC    | Grace Baptist Church                |
| Bodacious Bar-B-Q               | HUB International                   |
| Brigitta's Hungarian Restaurant | KHPF                                |
| Chick-fil-A at Kilgore          | Kilgore Rotary Club                 |
| Clean Cut                       | New Generation Farms, Inc.          |
| General Contractors, LLC        | Noble Roofing                       |
| Coldwell Banker                 | Bullard Associates, LLC             |
| Lenhart Properties, Inc.        | QuickVisit Urgent Care -Kilgore     |
| Cole Trucking                   | R & K Distributors, Inc.            |
| Comfort Suites                  | Rusk County Farm Bureau             |
| Cynergy Technology              | Sparkle Janitorial, LLC             |
| De Rigueur                      | U.S. Title Company - Kilgore Office |
| East Texas Regional Airport     | Velvet Jupiter Salon and Spa        |
| Elliott Electric Supply         | Whataburger #650                    |
| Four-S Oil Company, LTD.        |                                     |
- Find a Chamber Member in the Business Directory at [www.KilgoreChamber.com](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### APRIL & MAY

<b>April 20</b>	Morning Brew	8:00am	Texas Shakespeare Festival
<b>April 24</b>	Growth Group	11:30am	Backporch
<b>April 26</b>	BizConnect - Administrative Prof Day	11:30am	Kilgore College - Devall Ballroom
<b>May 3</b>	EMT's Meeting	11:30am	Kilgore Chamber
<b>May 11</b>	Executive Board Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
<b>May 15</b>	Board Meeting	12:00pm	Kilgore Chamber
<b>May 18</b>	Morning Brew	8:00am	Martin Resources
<b>May 22</b>	Growth Group	11:30am	Back Porch Restaurant
<b>May 29</b>	Office Closed - Memorial Day		
<b>June 2</b>	Spring Swing Golf Tournament	10:00am	Tempest Golf Club

Go to [KilgoreChamber.com](http://KilgoreChamber.com) or [VisitKilgore.com](http://VisitKilgore.com) for more event information.

If you have a community event you wish to have listed on the Kilgore Calendar please send your information via email to [lmorgan@kilgorechamber.com](mailto:lmorgan@kilgorechamber.com), drop it by the Chamber office at 1108 N. Kilgore Street. We will be happy to share your event information on the community calendar and via Facebook at [KilgoreChamber.com](http://KilgoreChamber.com).

Proud Member 47 Years

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Dr. Shiloh Roberts



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Attendees at these dynamic meetings introduce themselves and their business with a 30-second commercial. Maximize your networking by arriving early or staying after the meeting to enjoy open networking with the local business professionals who attend each month.



**The goal of Growth Group is to build personal and professional relationships with other members while exchanging leads, business tips, growing your prospect list, and, most importantly, referrals.**

# GROWTH *group*

Come GROW With Us!  
Powered by the  
Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce

**Monday, April  
24th, 11:30 am  
@ The Back  
Porch**

Showcase your business by joining us for a little lunchtime fun and some lively conversation at our Monday Growth Group.

[www.KilgoreChamber.com](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com)



Morning Brew, one of the Chamber's business connection events, was sponsored by Arabella of Kilgore.

**Thank you to Shelly Longacre for hosting an outstanding event!**

If your business is interested in hosting a Morning Brew, contact Lisa Morgan at the Kilgore Chamber 903-984-5022.



**KILGORE AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF**  
Jill R. McCartney, IOM President & CEO  
Lisa Morgan, IOM, Member Services Manager

*"The Purpose of the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote a strong business and industrial environment in the Kilgore area.  
5 Core Competencies: Accelerate, Advocate, Collaborate, Educate, Innovate"*

**2023 Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce**  
1108 N. KILGORE STREET | KILGORE, TEXAS 75662 | 903-984-5022

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- Robert Young, Chairman (Skeeter)
- Erin Brogoitti, Chair Elect (HUB International)
- Tim Capps, Vice Chair (Gabriel/Jordan Buick GMC)
- Kevin Offering, Vice Chair (East Texas Hardware)
- Blayne Cole, Treasurer (Noble Roofing Bullard Associates, LLC)
- Bobbie Hurley O'Dell, Chairman (Arpco Valves & Controls) Past Chairman
- Jill McCartney White, Secretary (Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Jack Moore (Whataburger)
- Ubaldo Meraz (East Texas Professional Credit Union)
- John-Michael Spates (Orgill)
- Nichole Cole (Business Computer Solutions, BCS)
- Sharla Shead, FNP-C (Christus Trinity Clinic)
- Brent Rice (State Farm Insurance)
- Gene Keenon (Republic Services)

**EX-OFFICIO**

- Dr. Andy Baker (KISD)
- Dr. Brenda Kays (Kilgore College)
- Lisa Denton (Kilgore Economic Development Corp.)
- Josh Selleck (City of Kilgore)
- David Cleveland (East Texas Council of Governments)

*Proud Chamber Member for Over 25 Years*



**REPUBLIC  
SERVICES**

2611 N Hwy. 42 Kilgore  
2815 N Hwy. 42 Kilgore



**The Office Center**

## BizConnect Luncheon

POWERED BY THE KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce  
**Inaugural Administrative Professional's Day  
 Expo & Luncheon**

Say Thank You to your Administrative Professionals/Support Staff for their hard work, dedication.

**Speaker**  
**Tara O'Dell**  
 Holistic Professional Women's Coach

"How to Avoid Burnout - Practical Strategies That You Can Begin Using to Sustain a Healthy Work-Life Balance"

Wednesday, April 26, 2023  
 Vendor Exhibits & Giveaways 11:00 am  
 Lunch 12:00 noon  
 Kilgore College, Devall Ballroom,  
 1116 Broadway Blvd., Kilgore

\$35 Members \$45 Non Members  
 Reserved Tables of 8 \$375  
 Sponsorships Available for \$500  
 Vendors/Door Prizes/Goody Bags

Register online at [kilgorechamber.com/events](http://kilgorechamber.com/events)  
 or call 903.984.5022

**E<sup>4</sup> LEADERSHIP** EMBARK • ENLIGHTEN • EMPOWER • ENGAGE

What are the benefits for you in supporting your employee's participation in the chamber's E<sup>4</sup> Leadership Program?

**Employees will be transformed through E<sup>4</sup>!**

Want an employee who...

- Understands the nature of leadership.
- Possesses team building and communication skills essential for workplace success.
- Understands how personal leadership style may facilitate personal and professional growth
- Possesses goal setting, critical thinking, and problem solving strategies to tackle challenges in the workplace.
- Understands and practices a rational decision-making process.
- Grasps the importance of fostering employee development through mentoring relationships and networking opportunities.
- Bolsters your company profile in the broader community.
- Embraces the idea that community service is an essential component of self-actualization and satisfaction.

If you want a workforce that brings these benefits to your workplace, support participation in the Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce's E<sup>4</sup> Leadership Program.

**Invest in Your Workforce.**

Approve and support your employee(s) participation in the upcoming, 9-session program.

Sessions are 1-full day (Third Tuesday) once a month beginning in October 2023 (retreat is October 12 & 13th overnight) and ending in May 2024 (This is an 8-hour per month commitment for you and your employee. Class Project could extend the program to May 2025).

Invest by sponsoring the E<sup>4</sup> Leadership Training tuition of \$575 (Or split the cost with your select employee to ensure their full commitment to this valuable training.)

Ask for the program application that details the elements of this impactful program. Recognize that the required deadlines, criteria, and guidelines for participation are part of the development process and encourage strict adherence from your employee(s). Pass this Fact Sheet on to your employee. Your endorsement underscores a firm recognition of the benefits to be gained by both your company and your employee.

**INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT KILGORE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Class size is limited to 20 people.  
 Applications must be submitted by August 31, 2023.  
[www.KilgoreChamber.com/Programs](http://www.KilgoreChamber.com/Programs) • 903-984-5022  
 JMcCartney@KilgoreChamber.com

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# Spring Swing Golf Tournament!

Join us on the green for the Kilgore Chamber Spring Swing! The tournament is not only fun and competitive, it also provides you the opportunity to develop or enhance business relationships. The 4-person scramble is set for Friday, June 2nd at Tempest Golf Club so get your team signed up quickly.

**Not a Golfer?** There are other ways to be a part of the tournament. By sponsoring the tournament (and we have a wide variety of sponsorship opportunities) you will be able to gain exposure and showcase your company. Or if interested in making connections, simply volunteer to work the tournament and have a chance to meet company owners and managers.

For a registration form, sponsorship info or volunteer opportunities, call us at 903-984-5022.





**TITLEIST SPONSOR:**  
**PATTERSON**  
KILGORE CHEVROLET CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM

**PREMIER SPONSORS:**  
**REPUBLIC SERVICES** **KEETER**

9:30 AM: BLOODY MARY & BRUNCH BAR OPENS  
11:00 AM: TOURNAMENT BEGINS

**FRIDAY | JUNE 2**

★ **TITLEIST SPONSOR: \$2,000**  
(only 1 available) Logo on all materials printed and web-based (promotional, advertising, newsletter, event sponsor signage, program) • Opportunity to set up a display table and distribute marketing and promotional materials

★ **BRUNCH SPONSOR: \$1,000**  
(3 available, team of 4 with cart and food) • 2 carts on course with beverages with your logo - you can have 1 staff person in cart • Opportunity to set up table with your business materials in dining area

★ **TEAM ONLY FEE: \$500 MEMBER or \$600 NON-MEMBER**  
• Green fees for 4, golf cart, food and beverage

★ **ADOPT-A-HOLE SPONSOR: \$350**  
(18 available) • Sponsor sets up display / table • Business hosts assigned hole - may bring additional signs and hand out materials to golfers • Sponsor and coordinate a game or challenge on adopted hole and provide a prize. Suggested games: Longest Putt - Closest to Hole, Longest Drive - Putting Contest

★ **PREMIER SPONSOR: \$1,250**  
(3 available, team of 4 with cart and food) • Logo on all materials printed and web-based (promotional, advertising, newsletter, event sponsor signage, program) • Logo on display on cart screen - business must provide digital ad • Opportunity to set up a display table and distribute marketing and promotional materials

★ **SCORECARD SPONSOR: \$100**  
(4 available, team of 4 with cart and food) • Name on all materials printed and web-based (promotional, advertising, newsletter, event sponsor signage, program) • Logo on display on cart screen - business must provide digital ad • Name and phone number on social media advertising

★ **HOLE FLAG SPONSOR: \$300**  
(only 18 available) • Logo on a hole flag which will be used during the outing and presented to you after the tournament

★ **HOLE / TEE SIGN SPONSOR: \$150**  
• Your company name placed in a sign located near a green or tee

Tournament Hosted By The Kilgore Area Chamber of Commerce  
For More Information: (903) 984-5022

**568 WILKINS ROAD**  **GLADEWATER, TX 75647**

## TEAM REGISTRATION

Entry Deadline: Friday, May 26

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Number Of Carts Needed: 0 1 2

Team Entry: \$500 | Members, \$600 | Non-members

PLEASE REMIT PAYMENT TO: KILGORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
PAYABLE BY CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT CARD

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ CSV: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Place **YOUR AD** in next month's **Chamber Connection**

Call 903.984.2593

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